



P.B.5818 - Patentlaan 2
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)
☎ (070) 3 40 20 40
FAX (070) 3 40 30 16

Europäisches
Patentamt

European
Patent Office

Copy
Office européen
des brevets

Generaldirektion 1

Directorate General 1

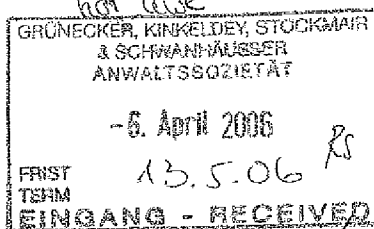
Direction générale 1

Grünecker, Kinkeldey,
Stockmair & Schwanhäusser
Anwaltssozietät
Maximilianstrasse 58
80538 München
ALLEMAGNE



EPO Customer Services

Tel.: +31 (0)70 340 45 00



Date

03.04.06

Reference
EP34727TE900kap

Application No./Patent No.
05102838.9 - 2201

Applicant/Proprietor
MICROSOFT CORPORATION

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The Search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within **one month** after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,--) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.

This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.

See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

- ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.
- ☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement 2 to OJ EPO 01/2005.





European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent Convention

Application Number

EP 05 10 2838

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
| 1 X ✓ | EP 0 809 197 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD) 26 November 1997 (1997-11-26) * column 1, line 1 - column 16, line 28 * | 1-3, 5-7, 15-17, 19-21, 29-31, 33-35, 43-45, 47 | G06F17/30 |
| 2 A ✓ | BRIN S ET AL: "The anatomy of a large-scale hypertextual Web search engine" COMPUTER NETWORKS AND ISDN SYSTEMS, NORTH HOLLAND PUBLISHING, AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 30, no. 1-7, April 1998 (1998-04), pages 107-117, XP004121435 ISSN: 0169-7552 * page 110, column 2, line 1 - line 31 * | 1-3, 5-7, 15-17, 19-21, 29-31, 33-35, 43-45, 47 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) |
| | | | G06F |
| LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION | | | |
| The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely: | | | |
| see sheet B | | | |
| The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims. | | | |
| 5 | Place of search Munich | Date of completion of the search 21 March 2006 | Examiner Hauck, R |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | | |
| X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | | | |

EPO FORM 1503 03/02 (P04027)



| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | |
| ③ A ✓ | WESTERVELD T ET AL: "Retrieving Web Pages using Content, Links, URLs and Anchors" TEXT RETRIEVAL CONFERENCE. PROCEEDINGS, XX, XX, 13 November 2001 (2001-11-13), pages 663-672, XP002361549 * the whole document * | 1-3,5-7, 15-17, 19-21, 29-31, 33-35, 43-45,47 | |
| ④ A ✓ | HARMANDAS V ET AL ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING MACHINERY: "IMAGE RETRIEVAL BY HYPERTEXT LINKS" PROCEEDINGS OF THE 20TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ACM-SIGIR CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN INFORMATION RETRIEVAL. PHILADELPHIA, PA, JULY 27 - 31, 1997, ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ACM-SIGIR CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN INFORMATION RETRIEVAL, 27 July 1997 (1997-07-27), pages 296-303, XP000782013 ISBN: 0-89791-836-3 * the whole document * | 1-3,5-7, 15-17, 19-21, 29-31, 33-35, 43-45,47 | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) |
| ⑤ A ✓ | SMITH J R ET AL SOCIETY OF PHOTO-OPTICAL INSTRUMENTATION ENGINEERS (SPIE): "AN IMAGE AND VIDEO SEARCH ENGINE FOR THE WORLD-WIDE WEB" STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL FOR IMAGE AND VIDEO DATABASES 5. SAN JOSE, FEB. 13 - 14, 1997, PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE, BELLINGHAM, SPIE, US, vol. VOL. 3022, 13 February 1997 (1997-02-13), pages 84-95, XP000742373 ISBN: 0-8194-2433-1 * the whole document * | 1-3,5-7, 15-17, 19-21, 29-31, 33-35, 43-45,47 | |
| | -/-- | | |



European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 05 10 2838

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | |
| (C) A ✓ | ATTARDI G ET AL: "Automatic Web Page Categorization by Link and Context Analysis" PROCEEDINGS OF THAI, EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON TELEMATICS, HYPERMEDIA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, 1999, XP002179799 * the whole document * | 1-3,5-7, 15-17, 19-21, 29-31, 33-35, 43-45,47 | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) |



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-3,5-7,15-17,19-21,29-31,33-35,43-45,47

A method providing content propagation for enhanced document retrieval, comprising:

- identifying reference information
- extracting metadata
- calculating relevance
- indexing metadata
- generating enhanced documents

and

- details about the type of reference information, the type of documents and the type of metadata used.

2. claims: 1,4,12-15,18,26-29,32,40-43,46,51,52

A method providing content propagation for enhanced document retrieval, comprising:

- identifying reference information
- extracting metadata
- calculating relevance
- indexing metadata
- generating enhanced documents

and

- use of query logs as data sources.

3. claims: 1,8,15,22,29,36,43

A method providing content propagation for enhanced document retrieval, comprising:

- identifying reference information
- extracting metadata
- calculating relevance
- indexing metadata
- generating enhanced documents

and

- calculating the relevance based on how many times a particular document is identified within its context in the metadata.

4. claims: 1,9,15,23,29,37,43,48



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

A method providing content propagation for enhanced document retrieval, comprising:

- identifying reference information
- extracting metadata
- calculating relevance
- indexing metadata
- generating enhanced documents

and

- calculating relevance includes weighting titles and problem context higher than problem resolution information

5. claims: 1,10,15,24,29,38,43,49

A method providing content propagation for enhanced document retrieval, comprising:

- identifying reference information
- extracting metadata
- calculating relevance
- indexing metadata
- generating enhanced documents

and

- calculating relevance includes assigning greater relevance to features of metadata that occur in content of the data source with greater frequency as compared to the frequency of other metadata features in the content.

6. claims: 1,11,15,25,29,39,43,50

A method providing content propagation for enhanced document retrieval, comprising:

- identifying reference information
- extracting metadata
- calculating relevance
- indexing metadata
- generating enhanced documents

and

- calculating relevance includes weighting of features as a function of an age of the document.

1. The maximum technical relationship between the groups of inventions 1-6 is the subject matter of claim 1, namely a method providing content propagation for enhanced document retrieval, comprising identifying reference information, extracting metadata, calculating relevance, indexing metadata and generating enhanced documents.

However, such a system is already known e.g. from document EP0809197 (see abstract; it is clear that the reference information is from sources of data independent of a data source comprising the documents (see col. 7,



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

lines 14-15); anchor sentences can be regarded as metadata proximally located to the reference information (see col. 7, lines 16-26), for extraction of anchor sentences see col. 10, line 57-col. 11, line 7; for calculation of relevance see col. 12, lines 26-35; for indexing based on metadata see col. 11, line 32-col. 11, line 25; the hypertext document information (see fig. 4 and col. 10, lines 29-56) can be regarded as being an enhanced document.)

Furthermore, the groups of inventions 1-6 are directed to different problems. The problems to be solved relate to the questions of how to apply the system of D1 for enhanced retrieval of knowledge base articles and/or product help (invention 1) and how to further improve document retrieval based on prior search queries (invention 2) and to alternative ways of calculating the relevance of the features of metadata (inventions 3-6).

Consequently, the relationship among the groups 1-6 of inventions does not involve "special technical features" as required by Rule 30 EPC so that the groups 1-6 of inventions are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, in violation of Article 82 EPC.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 05 10 2838

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

21-03-2006

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| EP 0809197 A | 26-11-1997 | CN 1170908 A | 21-01-1998 |
| | | DE 69727421 D1 | 11-03-2004 |
| | | DE 69727421 T2 | 16-12-2004 |
| | | JP 3108015 B2 | 13-11-2000 |
| | | JP 9311870 A | 02-12-1997 |
| | | KR 229395 B1 | 01-11-1999 |
| | | US 5848407 A | 08-12-1998 |
| <hr/> | | | |